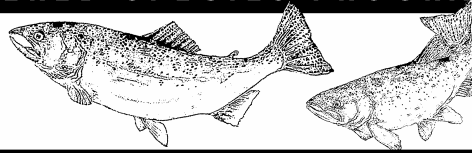


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September 2005

Salmon Saver: Bill Dygert*By Joe Jenkins*

As one of the region's lead advocates for open spaces and salmon recovery, Clark County native Bill Dygert has spent decades working with local government, boards, and agencies to sustain and improve habitat for fish, wildlife, and citizens. Anyone who knows anything about the recovery effort knows Bill Dygert. He's lead one of the most ambitious individual campaigns in the county and has succeeded in pushing through recovery and funding policy, founded several boards and programs to reach his goals, and has secured thousands of dollars for preservation in Clark County.

Dygert's deep appreciation and respect for the environment developed early on. His childhood was filled with memories of recreation on the East Fork and lower Washougal Rivers where he and his family fished and hunted duck.

In the present, though, he sees population growth as having significant impacts on our environment and quality of life. This growth is leading to habitat changes and degradation, which Dygert says is the main reason for dwindling salmon numbers. "One species that provides an important lesson in recovery efforts are Chum Salmon that spawn in the lower reaches of the Columbia, before they reach any dams. The river use to have runs of 800,000 Chum. This number has lowered to less than 4,000. You're talking about a fraction of a percent of what historic runs use to be. This shows that a lot of what has happened to salmon is directly related to habitat."

In 1985 Dygert persuaded Clark County Commissioners to approve the Conservation Futures program. Since then over 3,800 acres of open space lands in critical habitat areas around the county have been acquired including the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, Eagle Island, and Lucia Falls. The program is a part of Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation and is funded by a small

property tax on all taxable lands in Clark County, of which the majority collected is matched with state and federal grants. "What's great about this program is that it isn't just focusing on salmon but a variety of fish and wildlife populations as well."

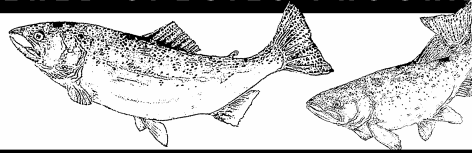


Bill Dygert (left) with his father and their catch of the day on the North Fork of the Lewis River

Dygert recently resigned from his position on the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) having been one of the original members since 1998. The LCFRB, a group composing of 15 volunteers, was setup by the Washington Legislature to develop a regional recovery plan for salmon in the Columbian Basin. Dygert served as chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for three years after serving previously as vice chair. The TAC is made up of 16 expert-members who recommend projects for funding and advise the Board on recovery issues.

Although he says serving on the board was one of his most significant contributions to salmon recovery, he feels his resignation was the right decision for himself and the Board as a whole: "I think it's good to have new people come in and share their particular knowledge and skills. Leaving after completing the Recovery Plan was a good milestone and now is the time to move on."

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Bill Dygert, though, is far from finished. "I'm still working with the same kinds of projects, but now I'm more selective; I do what I enjoy the most and what I know is going to have the greatest [environmental] impact."

He continues to work closely with Habitat Partners, a non-profit organization involved with preserving and improving habitat quality. Having recently moved his primary residence to Astoria, he serves on boards there and Vancouver working on master plans for park trails. In addition, he helps with the Columbia Land Trust, a non-profit Dygert led until recently that's focused on preserving high quality open space through land acquisitions, donations, and underlying easements on property.

After all of his work, Bill continues to be both driven and humbled by what he has accomplished and critical and hopeful about the future. "It looks like an awfully tall mountain to climb, but you just have to keep walking up it."

2005 Clark County Fair

By Joe Jenkins

The Clark County Endangered Species Program and the Watershed Stewards of WSU teamed up during the Clark County Fair to educate the public about salmon recovery, water quality and daily impacts our actions have on both. The informational booth at the fair was comprised of two computer kiosks for children and parents to learn ways to garden, maintain their vehicles, and to dispose of toxic chemicals that are safe for fish and do not degrade water quality. The Watershed Stewards were also on hand to answer questions regarding stream health on small acreage, salmon friendly plants, and ways to get involved in the volunteer Watershed Steward Program. Around 1500 contacts were made with fairgoers, 46% were under the age of 18 and over a third involved open dialog with the ESA and Watershed Stewards programs. Most volunteers and staff agreed that this year's booth was very well designed and in an excellent location. The Clark County Fair Board agreed: the booth was awarded "Best Display and

Presentation of Information" out of all the non-profits.

Wetlands Ordinance Update

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that jurisdictions periodically review and update their critical areas ordinances. The GMA defines critical areas that must be designated and protected as wetlands, critical habitat, geologic hazard areas, flood hazard areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas (CARA). The county has ordinances for each of these that can be found in Clark County Code, Title 40.

The GMA further requires that any revisions to critical areas ordinances be based on best available science. With the exception of the wetlands ordinance, the county's critical areas ordinances were based on best available science when they were adopted. Most of the revisions are expected to be to the wetlands and habitat ordinances, although mapping of all critical areas will be reviewed and updated as needed.

The GMA also has a provision that jurisdictions give 'special attention to anadromous fish' (like salmon) that spawn in freshwater and mature in the ocean. ESA staff is actively involved with the citizens group and county employees who meet on a regular basis to discuss and develop the revision.

Keep your eyes on the Community Development web site for updates on this important process:

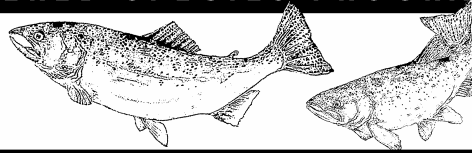
www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/projects/critical-areas.html.

Salmon at the Springs

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group knows how to throw a party! Their "Salmon at the Springs" event celebrating, among other things, their 15 year anniversary was a big hit with the estimated 150 individuals in attendance.

The August 18 soiree also commemorated LCFEG's new 10a1a permit from NOAA Fisheries which will allow speedy permitting for the group's enhancement projects. In attendance on behalf of

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NOAA Fisheries was NW Regional Director, Bob Lohn.

The Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center, the party site, took on a very festive atmosphere with a pig roast, a salmon and halibut bar-b-que, anniversary cake, and live music. Of course, no salmon celebration is complete without a fish piñata—a real favorite with the kids. An activity popular with the adults were the three keynote speakers, PhD research scientists discussing local salmon recovery issues.

Shelia North, Outreach Coordinator for LCFEG feels this fun and educational celebration was a success that will hopefully become an annual event. "This was the first year that LCFEG has attempted such an outreach event and, as the SW Washington Recovery Plan implementation unveils itself in upcoming years, our hope is to continually engage the community-at-large in local restoration efforts and activities."

Rivers Run Through It

Join the City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center (WREC) during their presentation of "Discovering the Rivers of Lewis and Clark", a traveling exhibit on display September 9 through October 28. The nationally acclaimed exhibit explores the Columbia River and other great western waterways.

Presented by American Rivers and co-sponsored by the U.S. Army, The History Channel, and The Dibner Fund, the message of the display is to show how rivers have changed during the past 200 years and how you can help restore them. Debuting in May 2001, "Discovering" has visited more than 25 venues in 13 states, and has been viewed by more than 1.5 million Americans. In 2005, it received the Natural Resources Council of America Education award.

During the exhibit's tenure in Vancouver, the WREC will host "The River in our Backyard", a

family fun day from noon to 4:00 on Sunday, October 16.

Watch for announcements and other activities at: www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/watercenter.

Dike Removal Clears Way for Fish

County Public Works Operations staff has completed the first of a two-phase project on the East Fork of the Lewis River that will result in improved fish habitat. County staffers removed Daybreak Dike, originally built by the county in the 1960's to protect its property from large flood events. The main purpose of the dike removal is to alleviate bank erosion that is threatening nearby homes. Removal of the dike should return the river to its original meander pattern and help East Fork salmon by preventing considerable amounts of dirt from being deposited into their habitat.

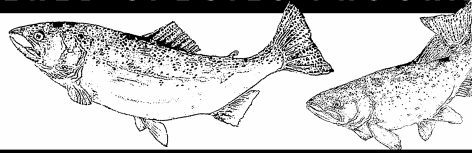
The second phase is a bank stabilization project that involves installing rock "J-hook vanes" and performing other in-stream channel work. This phase will be completed by Fish First volunteers with the county acting as the coordinating agency to help administer the various funding sources which include: WDFW, Fish First, Clark Conservation District, Clark County and local homeowners.

According to Ken Price, the county superintendent who oversaw the project, approximately 7000 cubic yards of rock and dirt were removed from the river. When asked if there have been changes in the river's flow pattern Price responded saying, "There haven't been any changes yet; we will have to wait and see the course it takes when the water rises."

ESA Program Update

The ESA Program has completed a draft of the proposed amended Habitat Ordinance for public review. It is available on the ESA website at www.saveoursalmon.com. The proposed amendments are the result of a review of the current best available science, a comparison to the National Marine Fisheries Service's criteria for protecting ESA listed salmon and steelhead, input

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from the ESA Advisory Committee, interest groups, a stakeholders group, and staff. Now the draft is available for general comments. Comments can be sent via e-mail to sonja.wiser@clark.wa.gov, or mailed to Sonja Wiser, Long Range Planning, PO Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98666-9810. A planning commission hearing is scheduled for October 13th at 6:30 PM in the Commissioners Hearing Room of the Public Service Center. After that, the ordinance will go to the Board of County Commissioners.

The program also continues to work on the watershed plan for WRIA's 27 & 28. Comments at two public hearings this summer were well received by the commissioners. They will use them in discussions with the commissioners from the other affected counties- Cowlitz and Skamania- in determining whether to remand the plan back to the planning unit for additional work.

We are working on a couple of guides to help people that have habitat areas on their property. One describes how to use native plant communities successfully in improving habitat while appealing to aesthetic values at the same time. The other has techniques for limiting impacts on habitat when development in habitat areas is permitted. They should be ready for use next year.

Our next big task, in addition to the ongoing ones, is to develop the details of the county's role in implementing the regional recovery plan that was developed by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) and is being adopted by National Marine Fisheries Service. We'll be working with our Advisory Committee to pull some ideas together for submittal to the LCFRB. We also need to work with other implementing partners so that together our actions will lead to fish recovery.

Calendar Highlights*Columbia River Watershed Festival*

9:30 to 1:30; September 21-23

Vancouver Lake; Contact: Carrie Kraten,
Environmental Information Cooperative
(360) 546-9039

Discovering the Rivers of Lewis and Clark

9:00 to 5:00; September 9-October 28

Contact: City of Vancouver Water Resources
Education Center; (360) 696-8478

Worm Composting Community Workshop

10:00 to 1:00, September 17; CASEE Center
11104 NE 149th Street, Brush Prairie; Contact:
Susan Newman 360-397-6118 ext 4884

susan.newman@clark.wa.gov

Backyard Composting Workshop

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; September 30-October 1
Contact: Susan Newman 360-397-6118 ext 4884

susan.newman@clark.wa.gov

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

For meeting information, contact the LCFRB at
(360) 425-1555 or visit www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us.

ESA Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 1st

Wednesday of the month, Vancouver. Contact:
John Tyler at (360) 397-2022 or

john.tyler@clark.wa.gov

Naturescaping for Clean Rivers Workshops

(Open to all, pre-registration is required.)

9:00am-1:00pm, Saturdays, October 1, 8, 15, 29;

November 5, 19; December 3;

Call for locations: Betty McArdle 503-797-1842 or

naturescaping@yahoo.com

FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Clark County ADA Office V (360) 397-2025;

TTY (360) 397-2445; ADA@Clark.wa.gov